REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection and rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Office Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8 are now pending in this application, with Claims 1 and 8 being independent. Claim 9 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 5, 7, and 8 have been amended herein.

The disclosure was objected to because of informalities. In response, the specification has been amended in the manner suggested by the Examiner. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the disclosure are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3, 4, and 6-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,341,843 (Takemura et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,009,245 (Kato et al.). Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Takemura et al. and Kato et al. and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,705,694 (Barbour et al.). Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Takemura et al. and Kato et al. and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,838,888 (Oda). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

With the arrangement and method set forth in the independent claims, any distributed driving value can be handled without changing the control circuit for buffer input/output. Note page 24, line 21 to page 25, line 4 of the specification. Accordingly,

various types of printheads, each being driven according to a different distributed driving value, can be used with a common control circuit for printheads having various arrangements. Note page 7, lines 2-5 of the specification.

Takemura et al. is directed to an inkjet printer including a print buffer 139, and a printhead that stores printhead identification information as well as printhead alignment and optical density information, information and parameters relating to a waste ink amount, printhead change count, printhead cleaning times, printhead type, etc., in an EPROM 132. As understood by Applicants, Takemura et al. discloses a technique of controlling read out of image data based on (i) slanting of a nozzle array, (ii) nozzle layout, and (iii) printing resolution.

However, Takemura et al. does not disclose or suggest at least storing information on a number of concurrently drivable printing elements according to distributed driving for a printhead in a head parameter unit, controlling, in accordance with the information stored in the head parameter unit, processing of reading out printing data stored in a printing data memory and storing printing data in a buffer memory, and processing of reading out the printing data stored in the buffer memory, and controlling distributed driving of the plurality of printing elements in the printhead according to the information stored in the head parameter unit, as is recited in the independent Claims 1 and 8.

Thus, Takemura et al. fails to disclose or suggest important features of the present invention recited in the independent claims.

Kato et al. is directed to a serial printer that can store print data in a buffer, based on the number of nozzle arrays and the number of nozzles. (Note column 11, lines 31-42). Barbour et al. was cited for teaching an ink supply memory device. Oda is directed to an image recorder and depicts a circuit arrangement in Figures 10 and 12 in which two nozzles form a group, and print data is transferred to the group. However, none of the citations are believed to remedy the deficiencies of Takemura et al. noted above with respect to the independent claims.

Thus, Claims 1 and 8 are patentable over the citations of record. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103 rejections are respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claims 1 and 8. Dependent Claims 2-7 are also allowable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in independent Claim 1. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the objection and rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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